

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

LDWSF
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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

1. TITLE Pioneer	2. CONTROL NUMBER 86-X-4-4 #8 34W
3. PERIOD COVERED	4. REPORTING OFFICE Seattle

SYNOPSIS:

Reference is made to ROI's 86-X-4-4 #1 and #2 reporting possible violations of the Clean Water Act by Pioneer Construction Materials Co. through discharges of wastewater into the Duwamish River in an area designated as Slip #2.

On 8/20/86 S/A Hattwig conducted a surveillance of the Pioneer facility on the Duwamish River. To the south of this concrete plant was a freshly painted building identified by a large sign painted on the building as Pioneer Construction Materials Co. Building Materials Warehouse. The street address was shown as 6335 1st Ave. South. North of this building is the public access to Slip #2.

At about 5:30 PM S/A Hattwig observed a liquid discharge from an area below the large water tank and next to the auger-like piece of machinery. This liquid discharge was running down the embankment and foaming as it entered the waters of the Duwamish. Concrete mixer trucks were being washed out and hosed down in close proximity of the discharge. One of the concrete mixer trucks was labeled Glacier, Helping Build the West; number 74-941 on the truck was visible with the aid of binoculars. Another mixer truck with a red and white stripe around its drum and a "W" on the door of the cab was also visible. The number of this truck was 350. Both these vehicles were observed being washed out and dumping large amounts of liquid near the area of the discharge.

In addition to the discharge running down the embankment near the corner of the auger-like machinery there was also a discharge observed about 50 ft. to the west along the bulkhead in an area where the shoreline becomes irregular. A liquid substance was observed running down the side of the embankment and into the Duwamish. The source of this discharge was some type of hose or pipe from which the discharge is gushing.

At approximately 6:40 PM S/A Hattwig discontinued this surveillance which was conducted from his vehicle parked on the east side of 1st Ave. South. During this period of surveillance the flow from both point sources described continued at a steady rate.

At about 7:12 PM Lee Moyer and S/A Hattwig resumed the surveillance by approaching the Pioneer facility from the waterside using kayaks. They observed the liquid discharging from a black hose about 1" in diameter, which was hanging over the

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REPORT MADE BY S/A Gerd Hattwig	DATE 1/7/87
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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CONTINUED:

side of the cement wall. This discharge was previously described as being about 50 ft. to the west of the open drain below the water tank. The discharge from this hose was steady with a great deal of velocity, running down the embankment and into the Duwamish at waterway #2. S/A Hattwig measured a pH of 10.0 by means of a portable pH meter and Lee Moyer took a water sample in the small cove where this discharge entered the Duwamish.

Additionally, Moyer and S/A Hattwig observed, suspended under about 2" of water a cloudy mass of blobs, gray in color, that would disintegrate when disturbed. Moyer videotaped this and took water samples. S/A Hattwig used the portable pH meter and measured a pH of 10.1 in the water containing the oddly suspended blobs.

At about 7:20 PM Moyer and S/A Hattwig were offshore from the corner of the auger-like machine and observed a brownish gray substance cascading down the embankment and flowing into the Duwamish. The discharge originated just west of the corner and was causing foam when it entered the Duwamish. Again Moyer videotaped the discharge and took a water sample at the point where the liquid entered the Duwamish. S/A Hattwig, using the portable pH meter, measured a pH of 11.2 in the Duwamish at the point of discharge and a pH of 12.1 in the discharge as it cascaded down the embankment. At about 7:38 PM the surveillance team left the area as both point sources were discharging at a steady flow.

At about 8:45 PM Moyer and S/A Hattwig paddled past the Pioneer plant again and observed that both point sources were still discharging at about the same rate as had been noted previously.

During this surveillance from the kayaks no discharge was observed from behind a metal plate in the cement wall to the east of the current discharge. However, discoloration from prior discharges was clearly visible on the wall below the plate.

On shore S/A Hattwig took custody of the videotape and the samples. The samples were sent to the EPA Lab at Manchester for analysis.